

SENIOR MILLAGE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Friday, October 7, 2022

8:00am-10:00am, In-Person

Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center, 15885 W Michigan, Marshall

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** at 8:05 am
 - a. **Attending:** Tom Hunsdorfer, Jim Powers, Bob Lyng, Willie Tabb, Tom Tarkiewicz, Diane Peters, Michelle Hill
 - b. **Excused:** Dominic Oo, Bobbie Smith, Gary Tompkins, Jake Smith, Shirley Tuggle

2. **Moment of silence to honor SMAC member, Pam Lasley who passed away, Sept. 16, 2022**

A moment of silence was observed by SMAC members, staff and attending public

3. **Consent: Approval of Agenda and August 5, 2022, Minutes** **Action:** Voice Vote
Motion to accept agenda and minutes. The September meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.
Lyng & Powers, Motion & Second. Voice vote. Motion carried 7-0 with 5 excused

4. **Introductions and Citizen's Comments**
 - a. **Staff:** Manager, Helen Guzzo; Specialist, Rebecca de Finta
 - b. **Introductions:** Mary Jo Byrne, Fountain Clinic; Paulette Porter, CareWell Services; Luann Sommers, Forks Senior Center; Jennifer Connelly, EastEnd Studio & Gallery; Anne Clarke, Senior Health Partners; Isabelle Nazer, Homer resident; Stephanie Cornish, Marian Burch Adult Daycare; Jack Reed, Heritage Commons Senior Center Board; Mary Frisbee, Marian Burch Adult Daycare; Bob Copeland, Guardian Finance; Jen Bomba, Community Development; Jen Rice, Heritage Commons Senior Center; Austin Odisher, Community Action (via Zoom)
 - c. **Citizen Comments:** Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center Board Member, Jack Reed officially welcomed everyone to Heritage Commons.

5. **Update on the Guardian/Representative Payee program**
Bob Copeland, Executive Director, Guardian Finance and Advocacy, Inc.
[Guardian Finance and Advocacy Services \(yourguardian.org\)](http://yourguardian.org)
Bob Copeland, executive Director shared that Guardian is a community safety net. They do not market their services because guardianship/payee services are appointed by the court. They receive the payee's benefits, and they pay the bills on behalf of the payee with any remaining going to the payee. They pay all living expenses to make sure that basic needs are met. Typically, the payees have substance abuse issues but can also be developmental disability, or have Alzheimer's, dementia or mental health issues. Conservatorship is the guardian of income and assets. Anyone who feels an individual is at risk can petition the court. The guardianship/conservator will work the individual to get their input on how they want the money spent. Once appointed guardian, they petition SSI or VA benefits to start receiving their income. 90%

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of the individuals they work with are classified as indigent. They are put on a budget, making sure all immediate needs are met. The individual is then given some personal funds and fees are taken from that left over amount. All their Guardians have a Master of Social Work, and carry caseloads of about 70 individuals.

6. Reports

a. Budget Report

Helen Guzzo

So far this year we have spent 66% of the year's funding, with 35% more to go, so we are right on track. The mini-grant fund has \$8,349 left so we have depleted this funding for the year. We have done a lot of supplemental funding, approving \$755,151 so even with unspent dollars we cannot contribute to fund balance this year which has been the goal. The recommendation is to keep the poverty level at 250% for one more year and it will be on next month's meeting agenda. So far it has helped us increase our spending. The question remains to be answered if it is sustainable to keep the income limits at 250% of poverty permanently. Helen recommends at least one more year at 250% of poverty to continue the recovery from the COVID pandemic and see what it does to 2023 contractual spending.

b. Manager's Report

Helen Guzzo

The office participated in eight special events since July this year, starting with a reception for Centenarians, then the Joanne Konkle Award and presentation, the Senior Day at the County Fair, Strategic Planning, the Sept. 8 Kellogg Arena Senior Fair, the Miles for Memories community event, the Alzheimer's annual walk and then the Tekonsha Health and Safety Fair on Oct. 6. Open Enrollment begins next Oct. 17. Kate Turner is going to join us on Mondays to assist Rebecca with appointments. The county is down several MMAP counselors because CareWell Services lost its coordinator, Lynn Moss, and Jolene English retired.

Jen Bomba, Director, Calhoun County Community Development posted a position for an Administrative Assistant recently and we have already received 8-9 candidates for the position. Helen is asking that the County allow Senior Services to be staffed at 3.5 FTES with a Manager, two Specialists and a shared Administrative Assistant with Community Development (the .5 FTE). The Administrative Assistant will not be planning special events or doing things such as MMAP counseling and would be shared by Senior Services and Community Development. The additional Specialist would have a college education and be able to do more complex work.

c. Results of the Senior Fairs

Rebecca de Finta

The Calhoun County Senior Fair was a great success, we had close to 400 people who attended it in Battle Creek. There were many good comments about having it at the Kellogg Arena by both vendors and attendees. They enjoyed more space and it did not feel as crowded. The sound level was great, the staff at arena was great. Presenting the event was much easier to have the tables and chairs already in place on the day of set up and the event. We want to use the arena for this event next year but want to move it back to spring, most likely in May, so our events are more spaced out. The Tekonsha Senior Health & Safety

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Fair was also a great success, with many comments by attendees appreciating the fact that we hosted an event in their area of the county. We had around 150 attend the fair. The Fire Chief, Daryl Cummins was excellent and extremely accommodating. We are planning on doing the event again next year. Please see the attached maps which show the zip codes where attendees were from. Staff from vendors are not included in the attendee counts.

7. New Business

Action: Roll Call Votes

a. Contractual Spending Award Recommendations for the 2022 Request for Proposal (RFP):

1) Dental Assistance Program, the Fountain Clinic - \$375,000 per year for a 3-year contract

The Dental Program was asking for \$375,000, but there was a recommendation to grant them \$400,000. Some of the committee members felt they should be granted the \$375,000 and not appear to randomly increase amounts when the subcommittee recommended the amount that was listed in the RFP.

Peters & Tabb, Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 7-0 with 5 excused.

2) Senior Fitness & Fun program, Comprehensive Care Corporation doing business as Senior Health Partners - \$170,000 per year for a 3-year contract

All costs are going up and SHP is concerned that if they only offer what they have in the past, attendance will drop. They would like to expand to more sites around the county and this funding would allow them to do so. It will allow for more coverage to the more rural areas of the county. The RFP amounts listed was \$130,000 but SHP in their RFP response as for more funding because they have had to raise salaries to attract nurses and exercise instructors and they are expanding to additional sites.

Powers & Hill, Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 7-0 with 5 excused.

b. Minimum Service Standard Revisions for the Senior Fitness & Fun program, combined with Health Education. The recent RFP combined the two programs into one contract to reduce the number of contracts that the office administers. SHP worked with Helen on the revised language.

Tarkiewicz & Tabb, Motion & Second. Voice vote. Motion carried 7-0 with 5 excused.

c. Minimum Service Standard Revision for the Minor Home Repair program, once in a lifetime with a \$5,000 program limit instead of 2 times in a lifetime with a \$3,500 program limit

People are now aware that they can be served twice so they hide an emergency to increase the number of times they can be served. In addition to this demand, the increases in cost of furnaces and the conversion of tub to walk in shower. This change to the minimum service standard will clear out people signing up over and over again. SMAC had lots of questions and it was recommended to table vote until next meeting.

Tabb & Hill, Motion & Second. Voice vote. Motion Carried with 5 excused.

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d. Mini-Grant: Eastend Studio & Gallery, Art Programs - \$5,000

They have been approached by Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center to conduct weekly art classes at their new facility. They have also been contracted by Oaklawn Hospice Care about providing training classes and craft kits for hospice care volunteers to use with patients. The grant would be used to purchase supplies and pay for staff time.

Tabb & Tarkiewicz, Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 7-0 with 5 excused.

e. Mini-Grant: Forks Senior Center, Minor Renovations - \$3,439

The Forks Senior Center would like to install a set of double doors in the meal site area because they have been using that room for other activities. It makes it easier to be able to maneuver tables and chairs. The county will do the installation and ordering since they own the building. The new Obie projection system they received from CareWell Services needs to be mounted in the ceiling through the drop ceiling and wired in, so they will be able to use it for seniors to be entertained, provide movement and exercise.

Hill & Powers, Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 7-0 with 5 excused.

f. Calhoun County Medical Care Facility contract amendment for 2022 and 2023

This will allow a shift in the contract from scholarships for people to attend daycare to staffing and supplies. They will need to hire CNAs, bring the existing vehicles back into working order. They had lost most of their staff during the closure and currently only have 2 CNAs that are working in the Medical Care facility but will go back to working adult day care.

Hill & Peters, Motion & Second. Voice vote. Motion Carried 6-0 with 5 excused and 1 abstaining, Willie Tabb because he serves on the adult day care advisory board.

g. Comprehensive Care Corp. doing business as Senior Health Partners supplemental requests for \$2,500 for Senior Fitness & Fun, and \$17,500 for Millage Health/Rural Health Education

This year they have increased some of their services, supplies cost more and wages for nurses and exercise instructors have had to increase to retain staff. They have three new sites they would like to get started for Rural Health, but they are out of funding. They would like to start an evening class in Marshall and Marengo Township.

Powers & Lyng, Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 7-0 with 5 excused.

h. Region 3B Area Agency on Aging doing business as CareWell Services, supplemental request for senior programming at Heritage Commons, \$5,000 for 2022 and \$20,000 for 2023

The \$5,000 is provide additional programming that they are adding to their offerings.

Heritage Commons has increased their membership with a goal of 500 members by the end of the year. They have started providing more programming such as cooking classes, arts & crafts classes which require additional purchases of supplies.

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Powers & Tarkiewicz, Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 7-0 with 5 excused.

i. Fountain Clinic, Senior Prescription Assistance Supplemental, \$15,000 for 2022

The income level was raised to 250% of the poverty level which has driven up demand.

Lyng & Tabb, Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 7-0 with 5 excused.

8. SMAC Member comments

Willie Tabb shared that the Albion Community Gardens had their ribbon cutting and the turn out was quite good. Jim Powers added that it is very encouraging that there is a program that works so well.

9. Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, November 4, 8am-9:30am, Marshall County Building

10. Adjourned 10:02 am

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca de Finta

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